

Executive Summary

Workforce Services Policy – Workforce Services (Youth Eligibility) - WIOA

1. What is the purpose of this policy?

The purpose of this policy is to clarify eligibility requirements for participation in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program.

2. What has changed?

WIOA requires placing a priority on service to out-of-school youth, providing more work based experiences such as summer employment, internships, on-the-job training, job shadowing and pre-apprenticeship programs, and improving services to youth with disabilities.

3. What is the age requirement for in-school-youth?

To qualify for WIOA services as an in-school-youth, the participant must be not younger than age 14 or (unless an individual with a disability who is attending school under State law) older than age 21 at the time of enrollment.

4. What is the age requirement for out-of-school-youth?

To qualify for WIOA services as an out-of-school-youth, the participant must be not younger than age 16 or older than age 24 at the time of enrollment.

5. Can participants still receive services if they exceed the maximum age limit while they are enrolled in the program?

Because age eligibility is based on age at enrollment for both in-school and out-of-school youth, participants may continue to receive services beyond the maximum age once they are enrolled in the program.

6. What criteria determine whether or not an in-school youth can receive additional assistance?

An in-school youth may receive additional assistance if they are in school and meet the following criteria:

- Has poor attendance patterns in an educational program during the last 12 months; or
- Has been expelled from school within the last 12 calendar months; or
- Has been suspended from school at least within the last 12 calendar months; or
- Has below average grades; or
- Has been previously placed in out-of-home care (foster care, group home or kinship care) for more than 6 months and is between the ages of 14-21; or
- Has currently incarcerated parent(s) or guardian

7. What criteria determine whether or not an out-of-school youth can receive additional assistance?

An out-of-school youth may receive additional assistance if they are not in school and meet the following criteria:

- Has dropped out of a post-secondary educational program during the past calendar months; or
- Has a poor work history, to include no work history, or has been fired from a job in the last 6 calendar months; or
- Has previously been placed in out-of-home care (foster care), been suspended from school at least within the last 12 calendar months; or
- Has below average grades; or
- Has been previously placed in out-of-home care (foster care, a group home or kinship care) for more than 6 months and is between the ages of 14-21; or
- Currently has incarcerated parent(s) or guardian.

8. What is meant by the 5% provision?

WIOA allows a low-income exception in which 5% of WIOA youth may be participants who would ordinarily be required to be low income for eligibility purposes. These participants must meet all other eligibility criteria for the WIOA Youth program except the low income criteria.